



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Larry Elsner, Raul Alvarez, Mary Jane Burson, Jennifer Garcia, Rebecca Harrison, Aletha Huston, Carrie Semple, Brook Son, Sylina Valdez, and Sebastian Wren. Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health Department (APH) staff – Donna Sundstrom, Rachel Farley, and Laura Williamson.

Chair Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** New ECC Member Sylina Valdez, the representative from AISD, introduced herself. Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Member Huston moved to approve the October 11, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes and Member Harrison seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0 [Member Alvarez not on the dais].
5. **PRESENTATIONS-** None.
6. **NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:**
  - a) Proposed recommendation to recognize Jacqueline Porter for her contributions in the area of early childhood in AISD, the ECC, and the broader community: Member Wren motioned to approve the submission from the ECC of a proclamation to be read at a meeting of the City Council recognizing Ms. Porter. Member Harrison seconded the Motion. The motion passed 9-0 [Member Alvarez not on the dais].
  - b) Decide on 2018 ECC meeting dates: Member Son motioned to approved the proposed meeting dates with the following two changes:
    - The January meeting time will be changed to 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
    - The March meeting will be held on March 21, 2018.Member Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0.

## 7. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- a) Executive Work Group – ECC Chair Elsner opened discussion of ECC priorities and structure; Would like every member to participate in at least one workgroup
- b) Cross Systems Work Group- Member Son
  - Purpose- to make connections to other sectors of the City government and beyond to encourage early childhood issues be incorporated into their work and planning; to find opportunities for collaboration
  - Accomplishments- Made connections with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development department; developed relationship with Austin Police Department and spurred collaboration with childcare centers; promoted the expansion of library story times in Spanish and in low-income communities
- c) Policy Work Group – Member Huston
  - Accomplishments- ECC members met with council members about childcare continuity; created district-specific fliers about early childhood issues for Council members
  - CM Garza passed resolution for a needs/gaps assessment on high quality childcare and PK3. Austin Public Health is convening a work group to respond to the resolution.
- d) Interests and priorities of newer members for the ECC
  - ECC should serve as a means of communicating to City Council community voices on early childhood issues; raise Council Member’s awareness about EC issues
  - Choose priorities based on where we think we can have the most impact
  - Ensure that the voices of people living in areas that are outside of Travis County but part of the City of Austin are heard and their needs are met
  - Advise Council on policy and planning in three main areas: programs, resources, and recommendations for addressing existing challenges
  - School readiness and a focus on affordable, accessible childcare as a component of Austin as a family-friendly city
  - Finding ways in which AISD can increase PK quality, expand PK3 programming, and expand existing partnerships

## 8. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS: None

## 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) January regular meeting- longer meeting time to hold a working retreat with a longer discussion of priorities, strategic plan, and workgroup structure
- b) Proposed action- recommend recognition of the contributions Elaine Clark who recently retired from Workforce Solutions
- c) Presentation from WIC

**ADJOURNMENT** –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m. without objection.